(c) and (d) The Department of Company Affairs to whom the matter was referred for investigation is yet to take a final view in the matter.

(e) The requisite information to the extent possible shall be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate by M/s. Glaxo

2633. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo is purchasing large quantities of Betamethasone and its salts from other parties at a price less than the notified price;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of each purchased from January, 1992 alongwith the source and price, consignment-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are purchasing and also converting purchased Betamethasone to Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate which is exempted from price control;

(d) if so, the quantity converted during the same period;

(e) whether it is a fact that the company is making substantial profits in India and abroad by assisting in getting imported raw materials in this manner; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (f) the required details would be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Production of AZT for Treatment of AIDS

2634. SMT. SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AZT required for AIDS is being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the price at which the product is being marketed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the same is being imported, if so, the name of the company and the selling price of each pack of each strength;

(d) whether it is a fact that imported formulation is exempted from excise and custom duty where as indigenous product, both bulk and finished, attracts excise duty;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) what is the comparative price of each strength of imported and indigenous of the drug; and

(g) what steps have been taken to boost indigenous production of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) to the extent information is available, M/s. Cipla has started the production of AZT required for AIDS with the help of technology developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. However, no licence has been issued by the Govt. for the production of this drug. Regarding pricing, no information is available whether the product has been launched in the market or not.

(c) and (f) The imports of drugs by individual companies is not being monitored by this Ministry.

(d) (e) and (g) The imported formulations are exempt from excise and customs duties. The request for exemption from excise duty for Bulk Drug AZT and its formulations has been received recently,